William Lloyd Garrison, Pittsburgh May 26 - 1853

Dear Sir,

58 Yours of the 17th inst. came to hand last evening and I haste to reply. We had not heard of Jacob Mitchel since he left this vicinity and we did not know what had become of him. We had heard that his family were not sold and had again entered into correspondence with the agent for the Lynn heirs and received as a final reply that they would not take less than $3500. But this reply was not given to us until after the application of the Rev. Mr. Beecher, and we think that the high price was demanded in view of the fact that there seemed to be such an earnest desire among the friends of the slave to redeem them. I think that if they had received no letter from Mr Beecher (after they had failed to sell to the Missouri Trader) their reply to us would have been more moderate. If all communication is entirely dropped with the trustees of the Lynn heirs by Mr Beecher and others in the east we might resume it here with a better prospect of success. Or if the friends in the east prefer we will have no communication with Cumberland and they shall conduct the business. Whatever plan is adopted we must come to some understanding among ourselves or they will stick to the above exorbitant price.

I believe that to secure their freedom by flight would at present be impossible. I think that if it were possible we could best secure success from this point. I have been before in that vicinity on similar business and should gladly "do to others as" I "would they should do to me" but I do not think that an effort would be crowned with success at present.

- I am opposed to purchasing slaves but when I look upon poor Mitchel and think upon the condition of his wife and family my heart bleeds and I am willing to do what I can to redeem them from slavery. We have some funds here and I think these funds could be encreased; I will call ~~together~~ the committee together and will lay your letter before them and I doubt not that they will ~~coincide~~ with you in any enterprise which you may judge best for the recovery of the family. I should be glad to hear from you as soon as possible, speak out freely what you think we ought to do, and please tell us distinctly also whether H. W. Beecher is still in communication with the Lyon family. If he is not would it be advisable for us to write to Cumberland soon. Please remember me to friend Mitchel.

I am, Yours &c

Thomas Barrows

P.S. Please direct your letter to me. T. B.